REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a two part fastener for clamping together first and second members in an overlying relationship, said first and second members having surfaces defining an opening extending through said first and second members, said fastener comprising: a base insertable into said opening, said base having a plurality of legs resiliently biased outwardly away from each other and movable between a plurality of positions relative to said first and second members, said legs being insertable through said opening; and an actuator connected with said base and manually slidable along a linear axis relative to said base to control the position of said legs of said base relative to said first and second members; said actuator having a first position of linear sliding movement relative to said base in which blocking portions of said legs are in a blocking position to block removal of said legs through said opening; said actuator having a second position of linear sliding movement relative to said base in which said actuator blocks inward movement of said blocking portions of said legs from said blocking position, thereby blocking removal of said fastener through said opening; and said actuator having a third position of linear sliding movement relative to said base in which said actuator holds said blocking portions of said legs inward from said blocking position, thereby enabling removal of said

fastener from said first and second members through said opening.

U.S. 6,474,921 to Gordon ("Gordon") does not disclose an actuator connected with a base and manually slidable along a linear axis relative to said base to control a position of legs of a base relative to first and second members as recited in claim 1. In Gordon, base 12 and knob 14 are both circular, and assembled by snapping knob 14 onto the base 12. It would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Gordon in view of Naylor to employ an actuator slidable along a linear axis relative to a base because the tracks 130 and 160 disclosed in Gordon are not designed for linear slidable movement. Accordingly, since neither Gordon nor Naylor discloses the invention of claim 1, a combination of the references does not make claim 1 obvious. Thus, claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2-9 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are allowable for substantially the same reasons as claim 1 and for the specific limitation recited therein. Accordingly, allowance of claims 2-9 is respectfully requested.

Claim 3 depends from claim 1 and has been amended to correct formal matters.

Claim 4 has been amended to correct formal matters. Further, claim 4 recites that tracks have cam surfaces that cam legs inwardly. Webster's Third New International Dictionary defines cam as "to move or control the movement of a cam." Accordingly, the word "cam" can be used as a verb, and therefore, claim 4 is not objectionable.

Claim 7 has been amended to depend from claim 5. It is respectfully submitted that claim 7 is no longer rejectable under 35 U.S.C. §112. Further, claim 7 recites an actuator that includes a stop located between tracks, wherein legs having end portions that are captured between said tracks and said stop when said actuator is in a second position. As shown in Fig. 1 of Gordon, tracks 130 and 160 do not have a stop between them. Further, Naylor does not disclose a stop at all. Since neither reference discloses the invention of claim 7, a combination of the reference does not make claim 7 obvious.

Claim 8 has been amended to correct formal matters. Claim 8 recites that an actuator is a slide having opposed, facing surfaces that define between them a V-shaped chamber for receiving end portions of retaining legs of a base. Neither Gordon nor Naylor discloses a V-shaped chamber as recited in claim 8. Since neither references discloses the invention of claim 8, a combination of the references does not make claim 8 obvious.

Claim 10 has been amended. Claim 10 recites a two part fastener for clamping together first and second members in an overlying relationship, said first and second members having surfaces defining an opening extending through said first and second members, said fastener comprising: a base insertable into said opening, said base having a plurality of legs resiliently biased outwardly away from each other and movable between a plurality of positions relative to said first and second members, said legs being insertable through said

opening, said plurality of legs on said base including first and second legs each having an end portion and a blocking portion; an actuator connected with said base and manually slidable relative to said base along a linear axis to control the position of said legs of said base relative to said first and second members; said actuator having a first portion comprising a first multi-sectioned track in engagement with said end portion of said first leg to control inward or outward movement of said blocking portion of said first leg in response to sliding movement of said actuator relative to said base in opposite directions; said actuator having a second portion comprising a second multi-sectioned track in engagement with said end portion of said second leg to control inward or outward movement of said blocking portion of said second leg in response to sliding movement of said actuator relative to said base in opposite directions; said actuator having a first position of linear sliding movement relative to said base in which said blocking portions of said legs are in a blocking position to block removal of said legs through said opening; said actuator having a second position of linear sliding movement relative to said base in which said actuator blocks inward and outward movement of said blocking portions of said legs from said blocking position, thereby blocking removal of said fastener through said opening; and said actuator having a third position of linear sliding movement relative to said base in which said actuator holds said blocking portions of said legs inward from said blocking

position, thereby enabling removal of said fastener from said first and second members through said opening.

As stated above with respect to claim 1, neither Gordon nor Naylor discloses or suggests an actuator connected with a base and manually slidable relative to said base along a linear axis to control the position of legs of said base relative to first and second members as recited in claim 10. Further neither reference discloses or suggests a first and second multi-sectioned track as recited in claim 10. The tracks 130 and 160 disclosed in Gordon are not multi-sectioned. The cams shown in Naylor are not multi-section tracks either. Accordingly, since neither reference discloses the invention of claim 10, a combination of the references does not make claim 10 obvious. Thus, claim 10 is allowable.

Claims 11-12 depend directly or indirectly from claim 10 and are allowable for substantially the same reasons as claim 10 and for the specific limitations recited therein. Accordingly, allowance of claims 11-12 is respectfully requested.

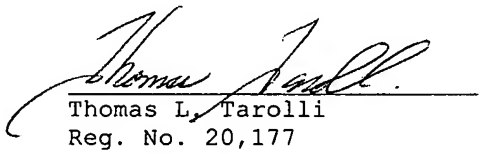
Claim 11 has been amended to depend from claim 10. Claim 11 recites that between tracks a generally V-shaped chamber in which end portions of legs are engageable by said tracks. As stated above with respect to claim 8, neither reference discloses or suggests a V-shaped chamber.

Claim 12 recites an actuator that includes a stop located between tracks. As sated above with respect to claim 7, neither reference discloses or suggests a stop between tracks.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,



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